

Doc. 300.1.2

Date: 09.10.2023

Higher Education Institution's Response

- **Higher Education Institution:**
Neapolis University Pafos

- **Town:** Pafos

- **Programme of study**
Name (Duration, ECTS, Cycle)

In Greek:

Μεταπτυχιακό στην Εκτίμηση Περιβαλλοντικών
Επιπτώσεων και Διοίκηση Αειφορίας (EIASM)(1.5
years, 90 ECTS, Full time)

In English:

MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment and
Sustainability Management (1.5 years, 90 ECTS, Full
time)

- **Language(s) of instruction:** English
- **Programme's status:** Currently Operating
- **Concentrations (if any):**

In Greek: Concentrations

In English: Concentrations



The present document has been prepared within the framework of the authority and competencies of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, according to the provisions of the “Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Higher Education and the Establishment and Operation of an Agency on Related Matters Laws” of 2015 to 2021 [L.136(I)/2015 – L.132(I)/2021].

A. Guidelines on content and structure of the report

- *The Higher Education Institution (HEI) based on the External Evaluation Committee's (EEC's) evaluation report (Doc.300.1.1 or 300.1.1/1 or 300.1.1/2 or 300.1.1/3 or 300.1.1/4) must justify whether actions have been taken in improving the quality of the programme of study in each assessment area. The answers' documentation should be brief and accurate and supported by the relevant documentation. Referral to annexes should be made only when necessary.*
- *In particular, under each assessment area and by using the 2nd column of each table, the HEI must respond on the following:*
 - *the areas of improvement and recommendations of the EEC*
 - *the conclusions and final remarks noted by the EEC*
- *The institution should respond to the EEC comments, in the designated area next each comment. The comments of the EEC should be copied from the EEC report **without any interference** in the content.*
- *In case of annexes, those should be attached and sent on separate document(s). Each document should be in *.pdf format and named as annex1, annex2, etc.*

1. Study programme and study programme's design and development (ESG 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update core texts and reading lists so that they are fully up-to-date. 	<p>Syllabi have been revised and updated in order to have the most relevant and updated bibliography and reading sources for each course, see ANNEX 1 UPDATED SYLLABI</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce reliance on examinations for student assessment. An indicative target of 50% assessment by examination and 50% assessment by other means per course is recommended. 	<p><i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i> Syllabi have been revised and updated in order to change the evaluation assessment. Now all the courses offer more assignments as well as marks for active participation during the semester. The final exams do not exceed the 50% of the final mark, see ANNEX 1 UPDATED SYLLABI</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links with environmental organisations (such as consultancy companies) should be extended. Input from such organisations to programme design and development and teaching should be secured. 	<p>Incorporating input from environmental organizations and consultancy companies can significantly enhance the effectiveness and relevance of EIASM program. Therefore, we established collaboration with Ideopsis Ltd., see ANNEX 2 Ideopsis NUP COOPERATION PROTOCOL, an energy and environmental consultancy office which can bring real-world expertise, best practices, and current insights to educational initiatives. Below are some steps we took to secure input from such organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Relevant Organizations in Cyprus: Ideopsis Ltd.(cooperation agreement signed) and Cyprus Energy Agency (in process). Reach Out and Build Relationships: We contact the identified organizations and express our interest in collaborating with them. Hold Meetings and Workshops: We organize meetings with representatives from the organizations to discuss the program's objectives, content, and curriculum. Encourage open discussions to gather their insights and suggestions for improvement. Involve Them in Program Design: We seek their input for the program's design through practical applications, and emerging trends in the field. Guest Lectures and Speakers: we invite experts from these organizations to give guest lectures or presentations to students. This provides students with exposure to real-world challenges and solutions and helps them 	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>

	<p>understand the practical implications of what they are learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internships and Field Visits: We will also collaborate with these organizations to provide internships or field visits for students. • Research Partnerships: Explore opportunities for research partnerships. • Continuing Professional Development: Encourage faculty members to participate in workshops or training sessions organized by these organizations. This allows educators to stay updated on the latest developments and best practices in the environmental field. <p>By securing input from environmental organizations and consultancy companies, our program stay relevant, practical, and responsive to the needs of the environmental sector while providing students with a well-rounded and up-to-date education.</p>	
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2. Student – centred learning, teaching and assessment
 (ESG 1.3)

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<p>It is very important that course delivery is supported by teachers with sufficient level of experience (research and or practical experience) in the topic area (see section 3 for further information on this point).</p>	<p>New Permanent Staff have been included in the EIASM teaching staff team with valuable experience in relevant subjects. Kindly, see the resumes included in the appendix for Dr. Achilleas Karayiannis and Dr. Anthos Ioannou, see ANNEX 3/ANNEX 4</p> <p>Furthermore, by securing input in teaching from environmental organizations and consultancy companies such as Ideopsis Ltd. (Cooperation memorandum signed and it is attached), our program stays relevant, practical, and responsive to the needs of the environmental sector while providing students with a well-rounded and up-to-date education.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
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CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



3. Teaching staff (ESG 1.5)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Make clear the role and responsibilities of the academic leadership of EIASM.	<p>Professor Solon Xenopoulos is the Dean of the School of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences, Coordinator of the Bachelor & Diploma in Architecture</p> <p>Dr. Martha Katafygiotou is the Coordinator of the MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management (EIASM)</p>	Choose level of compliance:
Extend capacity in teaching and research in the core fields of the programme, notably EIA, SEA and environmental policy/law.	<p>Incorporating input from environmental organizations and consultancy companies can significantly enhance the effectiveness and relevance of EIASM program. Therefore, we established collaboration with ideopsis Ltd. which is a leading environmental consultancy organization which can bring real-world expertise, best practices, and current insights to educational initiatives. Our collaboration framework (ANNEX 2) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The interconnection of the University's Study Programs with the knowledge and experience of Ideopsis professionals. ii. Teaching in the academic subjects of the University's Study Programs, starting with the EIASM Master. iii. The development of the capacity of the University, but also of the Ideopsis and of its members for the participation in clusters of local, national and international consortia iv. The joint planning and submission for implementation of research and other development programs. v. The joint organization of scientific conferences, workshops and lectures. vi. The participation of a representative of Ideopsis in the relevant Scientific Councils of the University's Study Programs starting with the Master's in Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management (EIASM). vii. The reinforcement and support of internship opportunities for University students in the fields of activation of Ideopsis and more generally the interconnection of the University's Study Programs with the labor market (needs/prospects). viii. The provision of dissemination and publicity of the actions of this Cooperation Protocol. ix. The provision of information and data necessary for the preparation of research and studies within the framework of this Cooperation Protocol. 	Choose level of compliance:

	<p>All of the above provides students with exposure to real-world challenges and solutions and helps them understand the practical implications of what they are learning. This collaboration and more similar to this will allow educators to stay updated on the latest developments and best practices in the environmental field.</p> <p>By securing input from environmental organizations and consultancy companies, our program stays relevant, practical, and responsive to the needs of the environmental sector while providing students with a well-rounded and up-to-date education.</p>	
<p>Establish, activate and implement a sustained policy for the promotion and support of EIASM faculty.</p>	<p>The present procedure describes the promotion the academic staff at NUP, see ANNEX 5_ NUP FACULTY MEMBERS PROMOTION POLICY, ensuring the promotion process of academics is based on the philosophy of NUP for academic excellence and modern teaching. The existence of objective and clear procedures ensures that academics promote on the basis of their academic qualifications and competences and the process of promotion is carried out without undue discrimination.,</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<p>Reallocate teaching assignments in some cases and courses.</p>	<p>Teaching staff is now enhanced with two more permanent staff, Dr. Achilleas Karayiannis and Dr. Anthos Ioannou, which will support the teaching with their valuable experience in Sustainability and in the field of EIA. Their resumes are submitted for review. Also in the field of EIA and SEA area, collaboration started Ideopsis ltd, Environmental and Energy consultancy. Experts and professionals from the public and private sector will attend the classes to support with their knowledge and their expertise.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
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4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification (ESG 1.4)

Areas of improvement and recommendations by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
Even though classes are scheduled on the weekends, attendance for the lecturers may be quite demanding.	Noted, and for that reason our academics are always available to rescheduling some classes or to split the lectures in order to support the students load. However, since most of the EIASM students are working full time it's still very useful for them to keep the classes during weekend hours. The EIASM teaching staff discussed this matter and decided to have a meeting with students at the beginning of each semester in order to review the programme schedule before it is finalized.	Choose level of compliance:
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5. Learning resources and student support (ESG 1.6)

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<p>In general, there are no major issues for what concerns teaching and learning resources, physical resources, human support resources and student support services. Following the constructive discussion with the staff in charge of the Library service, the EEC recommends the purchase and use of databases such as Web of Science and Scopus whose availability is standard at international level nowadays</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Our University Library prepared a detailed overview of the databases and the available sources, especially those related to our EIASM program which shows more than 4000 hard copies, more than 300 000 electronic copies and 5 plus million articles related to Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management, see ANNEX 6 _EIASM LIBRARY</p> <p>There is also a will and communication started among all the Universities in Cyprus in order to purchase esteem databases i.e. Web of Science and Scopus. The only barrier is the very high cost and therefore the communications are trying to overcome this obstacle with synergies.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
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6. Additional for doctoral programmes
 (ALL ESG)

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7. Eligibility (Joint programme) (ALL ESG)

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B. Conclusions and final remarks

Conclusions and final remarks by EEC	Actions Taken by the Institution	For Official Use ONLY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme would benefit from a clearer delimitation of the domain where the knowledge and the expertise acquired actually applies. 	<p>Through the current program changes, new academic members and syllabi updates, as well as our past and new collaborations the EIASM programme is enhanced and the program objectives are now clear and focused to ensure better knowledge and excellent results for our students. This will be also derived through the documents and the responses attached.</p>	Choose level of compliance:
<p>Prior learning: the current limit is set at max 50% of the total amount of ECTS, we recommend lowering it to 15% so as to adhere to the standard international practice.</p>	<p>Based on KYSATS (The Cyprus Council of Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications) for the purposes of recognition of equivalence, in the case of a request for the recognition of a degree for which part of the studies have taken place at a recognized institution of higher or higher education and the degree has been granted by another recognized institution of higher education, an essential part-percentage of studies for the purposes of applying provision 3. -(3)(a)(ii) of the Regulations K.D.P. 172/99, are considered at least three semesters of full-time study for three-year study cycles and at least four semesters of full-time study for four-year study cycles.</p> <p>This is completely compatible with our own policy where the maximum recognition rate we accept is 50% for undergraduate and 33.3% for postgraduate programs, see ANNEX 7_ COURSE RECOGNITION POLICY-KYSATS</p>	Choose level of compliance:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update core texts and reading lists so that they are fully up-to-date. 	<p>Syllabi have been revised and updated in order to have the most relevant and updated bibliography and reading sources for each course. Please see the attached syllabi.</p>	Choose level of compliance:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce reliance on examinations for student assessment. An indicative target of 50% assessment by examination and 50% assessment by other means per course is recommended. 	<p>Syllabi have been revised and updated in order to change the evaluation assessment. Now all the courses offer more assignments as well as marks for active participation during the semester. The final exams do not exceed the 50% of the final mark. Please see the attached syllabi.</p>	Choose level of compliance:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is very important that course delivery is supported by teachers with sufficient level of experience (research and or practical experience) in the topic area. The EEC recommends 	<p>Teaching staff is now enhanced with two more permanent staff, Dr. Achilleas Karayiannis and Dr. Anthos Ioannou, which will support the teaching with their valuable experience in Sustainability and in the field of EIA. Their resumes are submitted for review.</p>	Choose level of compliance:

<p>that capacity in the core fields of the programme, notably EIA, SEA and environmental policy/law, is expanded. Suggestions have been made for how this could be achieved in practice.</p>	<p>Also in the field of EIA and SEA area, collaboration started with Ideopsis ltd, Environmental and Energy consultancy. Experts and professionals from the public and private sector will attend the classes to support with their knowledge and their expertise.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make clear the role and responsibilities of the academic leadership of EIASM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Solon Xenopoulos is the Dean of the School of Architecture, Land and Environmental Sciences, Coordinator of the Bachelor & Diploma in Architecture Programme ● Dr. Martha Katafygiotou is the Coordinator of the MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management (EIASM) 	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish, activate and implement a sustained policy for the promotion and support of EIASM faculty. Programme evaluation and development 	<p>The present procedure describes the promotion the academic staff at NUP. Ensuring the promotion process of academics is based on the philosophy of NUP for academic excellence and modern teaching. The existence of objective and clear procedures ensures that academics promote on the basis of their academic qualifications and competences and the process of promotion is carried out without undue discrimination.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Links with environmental organisations (such as consultancy companies) should be extended. Input from such organisations to programme design and development and teaching should be secured. Resources and infrastructure 	<p>Collaboration started with Ideopsis ltd, Environmental and Energy consultancy (see signed Cooperation Agreement). Experts and professionals from the public and private sector attended a meeting with EIASM team to discuss the programme design, the market needs and the upgrade of the teaching material.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EEC recommends the purchase and use of databases such as Web of Science and Scopus. 	<p>Thank you for your comment. Our University Library prepared a detailed overview of the databases and the available sources, especially those related to our EIASM program, which shows more than 4.000 hard copies, more than 300 000 electronic copies and 5 plus million articles related to Environmental Impact Assessment and Sustainability Management, Annex 6. There is also a will and communication started among all the Universities in Cyprus in order to purchase esteem databases i.e. Web of Science and Scopus. The only barrier is the very high cost and therefore the communications are trying to overcome this obstacle with synergies.</p>	<p>Choose level of compliance:</p>

C.



D. Higher Education Institution academic representatives

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Prof. Pantelis Sklias	Rector	
Click to enter Name	Click to enter Position	
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